

NSC BRIEFING

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31 July 1957

REBELLION IN OMAN

- I. A second series of air strikes against rebel forts in Oman began 29 July while small-scale movements of British-led native troops have been undertaken to contain area of rebellion.
 - A. The RAF based at Sharja and Bahrein now has the mission of interdicting rebel "military movements" during daylight hours.
 1. There is no indication that air action has inflicted losses on Omani Liberation Army, which remains capable of intimidating sheikhs whose support of the revolt might be waning.
 - B. The British have also assembled two companies of Cameron Highlanders at Sharja, and have moved one of these to Buraimi.
- II. MacMillan told Ambassador Whitney that he is determined not to let problem get out of hand and not to employ British troops.
 - A. The British Foreign Office's Middle East chief has expressed a "reasonable hope" that the RAF action would bring the tribal leaders back to support the sultan.
- III. King Saud informed Ambassador Wadsworth that arms had been delivered to the rebels by India as a result of agreement between Nasr and Nehru, concluded through Krishna Menon.
 - A. While India has previously sold Egypt arms, which have been used in foreign clandestine operations, active Indian connivance in the Omani revolt is questionable.
 - B. However, Saudi and Egyptian training and equipment of Omani army well established.

State Department review completed

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